

## 2.0 BACKGROUND & FOUNDATION

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### 2.1 Vision, Goals and Objectives

#### The Rouge Park Vision

The vision for Rouge Park is:

*Rouge Park will be a special place of outstanding natural features and diverse cultural heritage in an urban-rural setting, protected and flourishing as an ecosystem in perpetuity. Human activities will exist in harmony with the natural values of the park. The park will be a sanctuary for nature and the human spirit.*

#### The Rouge Park Goal

To achieve the park vision, a goal – and a suite of objectives and planning principles – were set out in the Rouge Park Management Plan. The goal for Rouge Park is:

*To protect, restore and enhance the natural, scenic and cultural values of the park in an ecosystem context, and to promote public responsibility, understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of this heritage.*

#### The Rouge Park Objectives

The objectives for Rouge Park are as follows:

- **Natural Heritage Objective** – to protect, restore and enhance the natural ecosystem of the park by ensuring the health and diversity of its native species, habitats, landscapes and ecological processes.
- **Cultural Heritage Objective** – to identify, protect and conserve the cultural heritage features of the park for their inherent value and depiction of the long-term human use and occupancy of the area.
- **Land Use Objective** – to ensure the protection of the ecological integrity and cultural values of the park through innovative planning, management and land use in the park and its environs.

- **Management Objective** – to manage the park to ensure the achievement of all park objectives and to provide for ongoing public involvement in park planning and management.
- **Interpretation Objective** – to promote knowledge and understanding of the natural and cultural values of the park, their protection and management requirements, as well as their significance, sensitivities and interrelationships.
- **Recreation Objective** – to provide opportunities for appropriate recreational enjoyment consistent with all other park objectives.

## 2.2 Overview of the Boundary Delineation Process

The vision, goal and objectives of the Rouge North Management Plan (1994) were the foundation for the approach to define the park boundary as set out in the plan. The approach is focused on achieving the **protection, restoration and enhancement** of the natural and cultural heritage system within the lands designated as “Rouge Park” in accordance with the vision, goal and objectives of the plan.

The delineation of the Park boundary is a two-phase process:

1. *Define the Rouge North Study Area;*
2. *Delineate Rouge Park boundary based on criteria set out for each study area.*

The first phase of the boundary delineation process is the determination of the limits of the Rouge Park Study Area. This is the area within which investigations will be undertaken with the objective of identifying resources that would be considered in the delineation of the Rouge Park boundary to achieve specific Rouge Park objectives. The Rouge Park boundary would then be defined using the criteria to delineate the park boundary within the Study Area.

The Rouge North Management Plan identifies two geographic areas within the Rouge North area. Application of the Study Area and Rouge North Boundary criteria differs for each geographic area based on ecological objectives for each area. The two areas are identified as the **Middle Reaches** and **Little Rouge Creek Study Areas** (refer to

Section 4.3.2 of the Rouge North Management Plan). The goals for the Middle Reaches and Little Rouge Creek Study Areas are set out in Sections 3.3 and 3.4 of this document.

### **2.2.1 Boundary Delineation Process**

The process of delineating the park boundary and bringing these lands into public ownership has been integrated with the municipal planning process. It is intended that the delineation of the park boundary occurs prior to approval of development with the participation of the Rouge Park Alliance, local municipalities and landowners, but may also be done concurrent with the approval of lands for urban use. Technical studies required to define the park boundary will be undertaken in accordance with the terms of reference to be approved and administered by the Municipality, with support from the TRCA. The Terms of Reference shall identify reporting relationships and peer review requirements where necessary. Where it is necessary to define the park boundary on smaller land holdings through severance or other planning processes, the technical study requirements may be adapted or modified providing all criteria are applied in a manner satisfactory to the Municipality and TRCA and reflect the goal for the geographic Rouge Park Area.

### **2.2.2 Alternative Scenarios for Defining the Park Boundary Outside of the Planning Process**

Although the primary process for defining the boundary of Rouge Park is described above, there are other methods of delineating the Rouge North lands and bringing these lands into public ownership outside of the urban expansion or secondary plan process. Where other land securement options are available, the Rouge Park boundary may be delineated and the lands within the boundary secured in public ownership in advance of urban expansion process.

## 2.3 Relationship to the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act (ORMCA)

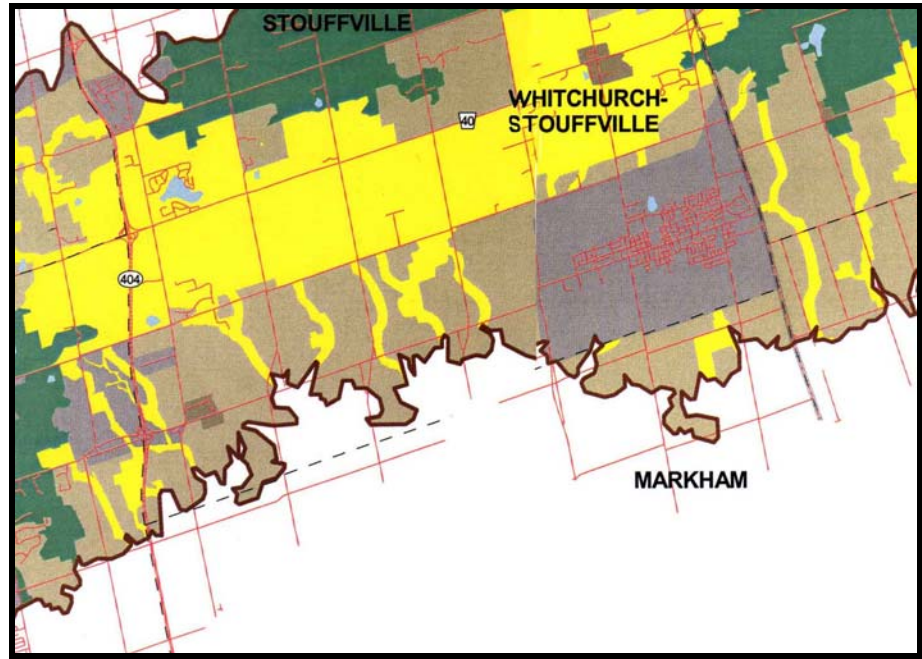
In December of 2001, the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act (2001) received Royal Assent and came into effect. The legislation requires that Municipalities adopt conformity amendments to implement the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan.

In response to the enactment of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act, the Rouge North Management Plan geographic areas for boundary delineation have been modified to reflect the regulated ORM boundary. The following provides a description of the alterations:

- The “Headwaters Study Area”, as set out in the RNMP (2001), has been superseded by the ‘Natural Core’ and ‘Natural Linkages’ designation in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. These designations encompass similar features and functions to those defined by the former “Headwaters Study Area” criteria. It is intended that lands adjacent the Rouge River Tributaries that are publicly owned will be encompassed within Rouge Park. It is intended that lands that are designated as ‘Natural Core’ or Natural Linkage’ in the ORMCA and are contiguous with watercourses that are tributary to the Rouge River or Little Rouge Creek, be brought into public ownership utilizing the land securement tools set out in the Land Securement Strategy prepared by the Implementation Committee of the Rouge Park Alliance. For areas that are designated as “Countryside’ or ‘Settlement’ in the ORMCA, the Little Rouge Creek delineation criteria and process are to be applied to define the boundary of Rouge Park on lands that are situated along watercourses that are tributary to Little Rouge Creek, and the Middle Reaches boundary delineation criteria and process are to be applied to lands situated along watercourses that are branches of the main Rouge River and its tributaries. (Refer to Section 3.0).
- The area designated as “Middle Reaches Study Area” in the RNMP (2001) will be extended northward along the tributaries of the Rouge River system to intersect the south limit of the Oak Ridges Moraine as set out in the ORMCA.

- The area designated as “Little Rouge Creek Study Area” will be extended northward to the south limit of the Moraine, with the boundary of the Rouge Park determined through the application of the Little Rouge Creek Study Area criteria.

These modifications have been addressed in the updated edition of the Rouge North Management Plan (RNMP 2003).



Oak Ridges Moraine

Source: Queen's Printer for Ontario. November 1, 2001.

Figure 2.3